

# NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2004

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Cutline: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member Pam Hurst prepares the Fresnel Lens in the Point Cabrillo Lighthouse lantern room for public tours on National Lighthouse Day. Photo courtesy of Bruce Rogerson.

## Big August 7 Celebration

## **Point Cabrillo Sets Family Day Celebration For National Lighthouse Day**

MENDOCINO -- A family day of games, kite flying, rare tours of the lighthouse lantern room and Fresnel Lens, walks to a Gold Rush-era shipwreck site, light station history talks, and joint demonstrations and exhibits by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Coast Guard will all be a part of the National Lighthouse Day celebration at the Point Cabrillo Light Station and Nature Preserve.

The event will be held August 7, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All family activities are free except for the tours of the Fresnel Lens and Lantern Room, which will be by appointment (937-6120) and will cost \$15 per person. For safety considerations, no one under 12 years of age will be permitted. All funds go toward Lighthouse and Fresnel Lens maintenance.

"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to take a limited number of visitors upstairs onto the deck of the Lantern Room for a close-up view of the Third Order Fresnel lens, and presentations by the Flotilla 87, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary," said Jim Kimbrell, executive director of the Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association (PCLK). Flotilla 87 members are responsible for the weekly maintenance of the Lantern Room and Lens, a federal aid to navigation.

National Lighthouse Day is a day each year the lighthouse community celebrates and honors lighthouses and their keepers. August 7 commemorates the signing of the Act of Congress on August 7, 1789 by which the Federal Government took responsibility for building and operating the nation's lighthouses.

The celebration recognizes the vital role of lighthouses in the maritime history of the United States, and the importance of restoring and preserving these great symbols of our sea going heritage for future generations.

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Planned Activities: The Light Station and Nature Preserve from 9 a.m. until one hour after sunset. Events will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in and around the Lighthouse and keeper's houses. Admission to the site is free.

Fresnel Lens Tour for the public: For the first time since the Fresnel Lens and Lantern Room have been restored, the visiting public will be allowed to climb the stairs into the Lens and Lantern Room. Uniformed members of Flotilla 87, USCG Auxiliary will provide guided tours to groups of six visitors for half hour intervals.

Lighthouse History: PCLK docents and/or USCG Auxiliary members will provide historical information to visitors in and around the Lighthouse throughout the Family Day.

Frolic Cove Walks: There will be two walks to the Frolic Shipwreck site in Frolic Cove during the day, lead by PCLK Docents. The Frolic story and Information about the Gold Rush era shipwreck will be provided during the walk and while at the wreck's site.

Marine Science Exhibits and Whale Puzzle: The coastal marine aquarium and photo exhibits will be open to families and visitors in the Blacksmith/Carpenters Shop. Children and parents will have the opportunity to put together a life size Grey Whale jigsaw puzzle.

USCG and Auxiliary Displays: Joint demonstrations and exhibits hosted by members of the members of the USCG and USCG Auxiliary will be available for viewing by visitors.

USCG Air Sea Rescue Demonstration: Weather permitting, a U.S. Coast Guard will carry out a helicopter-person in the water rescue off the Point Cabrillo headlands in conjunction with a 47-foot motor lifeboat from USCG Noyo River. The timing and arrangements for this event are to be confirmed, but currently a time of 1 to 2 p.m. appears to be a good target.

Games and Kite Flying: Families and visitor will have opportunities to participate in games of volleyball, badminton, and horseshoes, and perhaps in friendly games of competition. Kite flying is always excellent in the fields across from the keeper's residences. Bring your kites and kites may be available for flying.

Food: Volunteers will be offering a fun meal of a freshly cooked hot dog, chips, cookie, and a beverage for only \$5. Families are invited to use the Station's picnic tables, or to bring a blanket and enjoy the beautiful views from the headlands.

The 300-acre Point Cabrillo Light Station & Preserve, a California State Park, is located off Highway 1 between Fort Bragg and Mendocino. For more information, visit [www.pointcabrillo.org](http://www.pointcabrillo.org).

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